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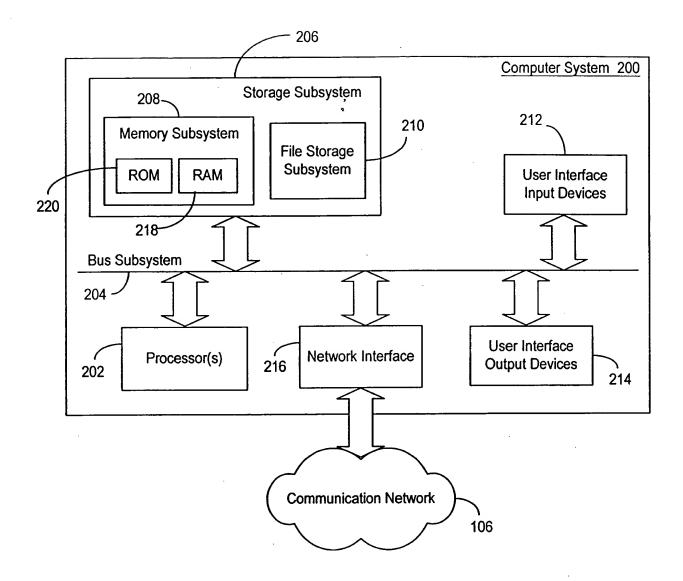


Fig. 2



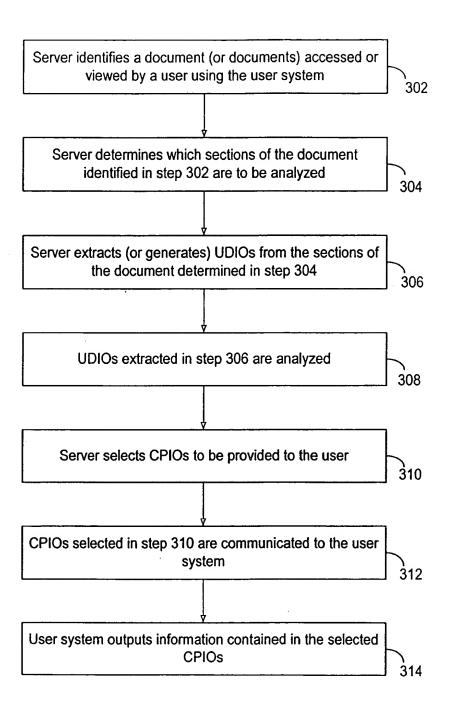


Fig. 3



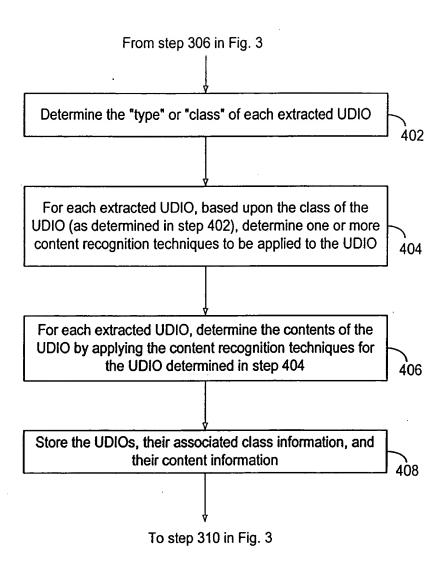


Fig. 4

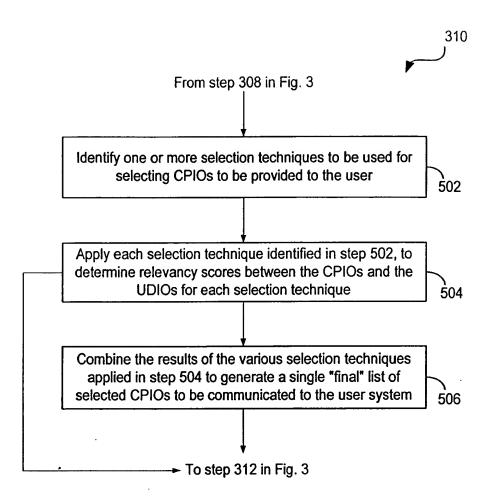


Fig. 5

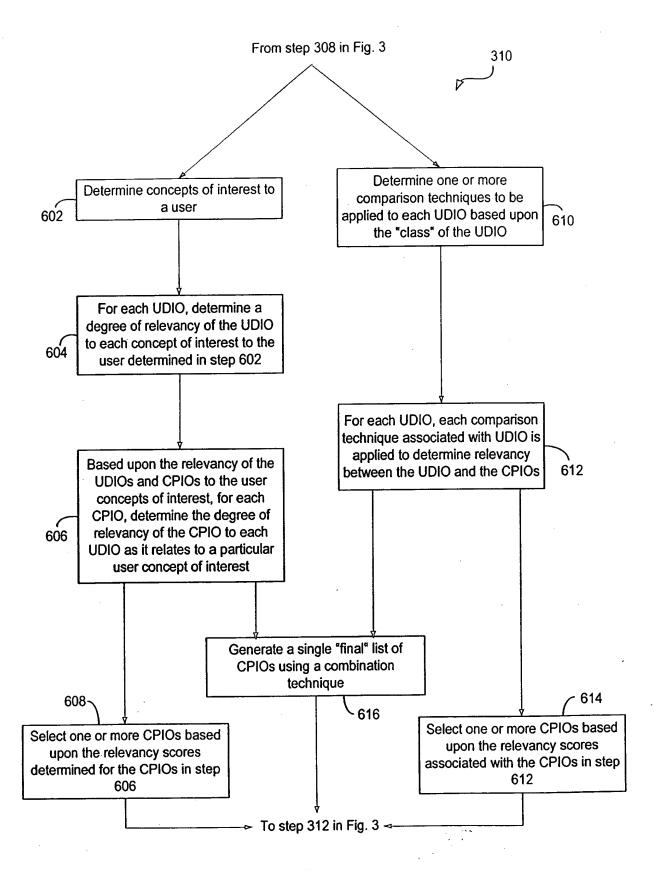


Fig. 6

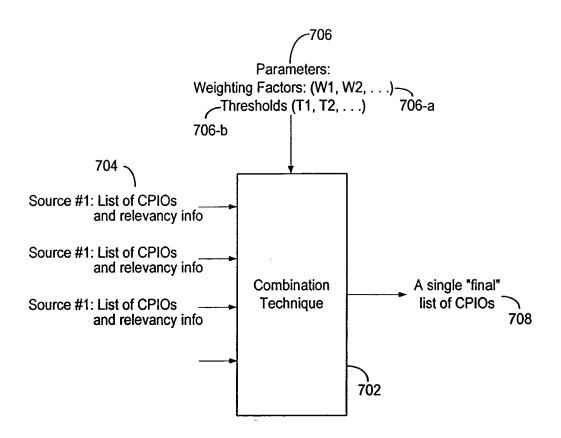


Fig. 7

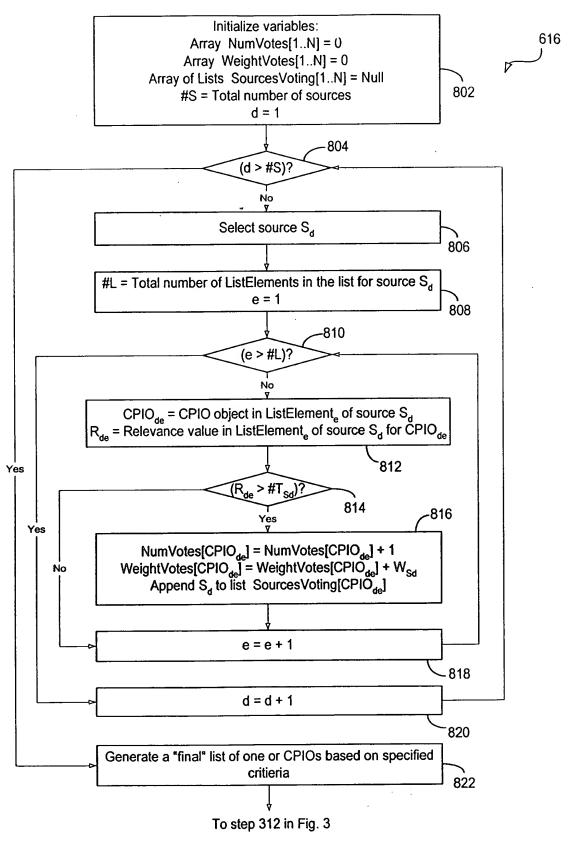
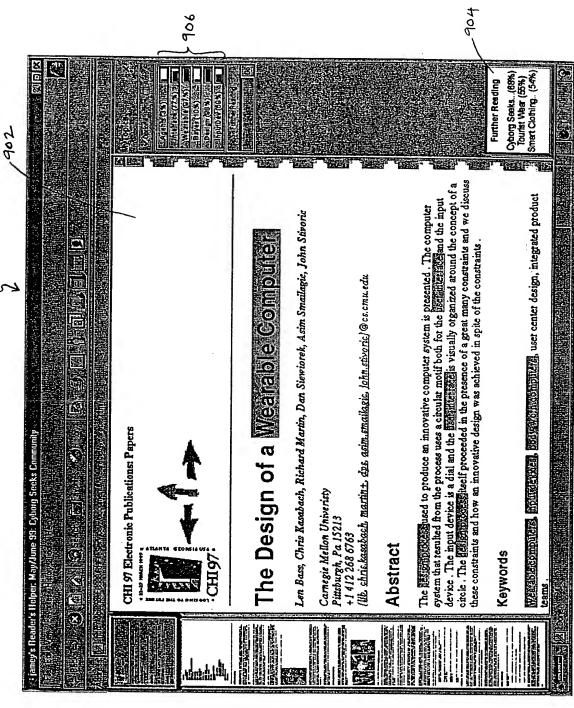
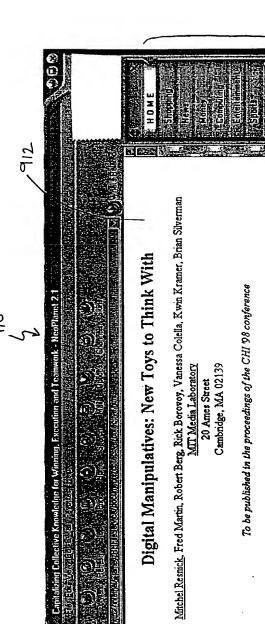


Fig. 8



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Fig 9B



Abstract

In many educational settings, maripulative materials (such as Cuisenaire Rods and Pattern Blocks) play an important role in children's learning, enabling children to explore mathematical and scientific concepts (such as number and shape) through direct manipulation of physical objects. Our group at the MIT Media Lab has developed a new generation of "digital manipulatives" -- computationally-enhanced versions of traditional children's toys. These new manipulatives enable children to explore a new set of concepts (in particular, "systems concepts" such as feedback and emergence) that have previously been considered 'too advanced' for children to learn. In this paper, we discuss four of our digital manipulatives -- computationally-augmented versions of blocks, beads, balls, and badges.

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Introduction

Walk into any kindergarten, and you are likely to see a diverse collection of "manipulative materials." You might see a set of Cuisenaire Rods: brightly colored wooden rods of varying lengths. The colors and lengths of the rods are carefully chosen to engage children in explorations of arithmetic concepts and relationships. Children discover that each brown rod is the same length as two purples -- or four reds. On the next table, you might see a set of Pattern Blocks. Children can use these polygon-shaped tiles to create mosaic-like patterns -- and, in the process, learn important geometric concepts.

As children build and experiment with these mampulative materials, they develop richer ways of thinking about mathematical concepts such as number, size, and shape. But there are many important concepts that are very difficult (if not impossible) to explore with these traditional mampulative materials. In particular, traditional mampulatives generally do not help children learn and interesting the second control of the children learn and interesting the second control of the children learn and interesting the second control of the children learn and interesting the second control of the children learn and the second control of the children learned learned

Smart Toys (75%) Kid's Wear (45%) e-Legoland (33%)

Forther Reading